

2008
IOWA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
SPELLING BEE RULES

General

1. All contestants must fill out an entry form including the signature of a parent or guardian. Social Security numbers are not needed. Any student in grades 4-7 may participate, whether public, private, parochial or home schooled, as long as they attend or reside in the area covered by that Knights of Columbus council.
2. To prepare for the competitions, participants may view and print the word lists for all four grade levels at www.iowakofc.org/youth.shtml. The same lists are used at the local, regional and state levels. Each grade will start with their grade's list. Whenever the pronouncer feels the current list is insufficient to produce a winner they may change to the next level word list. An undisclosed "challenge" list will be used after the seventh grade list.
3. The first and second place contestants in each grade at each local competition will advance to one of six regional competitions. The first and second place contestants in each grade at each regional competition will advance to the state competition. If either of the two finalists is unable to attend the next competition, the third place contestant may go in his or her place.

Contest Procedures

4. Contestants should check in with the pronouncer in their room. The pronouncer is responsible for keeping the contest fair and organized and may consult with judges or the event director at any time. The pronouncer will seat the contestants in the front of the room in random order, facing the pronouncer with their backs to the audience. Audiences are welcome, but must not distract the contestants. If there are many contestants in one grade, they may be split into separate rooms and later combined to save time.
5. A practice round will be used where no one is eliminated. If possible, the contestant should stand for their turn. The pronouncer will say the word, use it in a sentence, and then repeat the word. If the contestant is unsure of the word, he or she may ask the pronouncer to repeat it or define it. Although only judged on the spelling, contestants are encouraged to pronounce the word, spell the word, and then repeat the pronunciation.
6. A tape recorder will be used so the pronouncer and judges can review a spelling if needed. Video cameras are allowed but shall not be used for judging. If the pronouncer determines that a word is incorrectly spelled by the contestant that contestant is eliminated with two exceptions:
 - a. Anyone present may ask the pronouncer if the word has another spelling. After hearing the protest, the judge will check the available dictionary, review the tape recording if necessary, and render a decision. The protest may be made at any time until the eliminated contestant's next turn has passed, after that it is too late to protest.
 - b. If all remaining contestants are eliminated in the same round, all contestants eliminated in that round will return to the competition. If all contestant except one are eliminated in the same round, that contestant will be declared the winner and the remaining contestants will compete for second place.

Final Two Contestants

7. When the contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. When one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant shall be given the opportunity to spell the same word. If the second contestant spells the word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer's list, then he/she shall be declared the champion.
8. If one of the last two contestants misses and the other, after correctly spelling the word, misspells the new word, then the newly misspelled word shall be referred to the first contestant. If the contestant then succeeds in correctly spelling the word and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer's list, then he/she shall be declared the champion.
9. If both contestants misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word.